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ABSTRACT

Proceedings of a 1983 International Conference of states sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) are presented. The focus was the adoption of the Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas, and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific. Emphasis was placed on the importance of the convention in the mobility of students and specialists for training and employment essential for national development. After summarizing the conference agenda, attention is directed to the process of agreeing on practices for recognizing foreign certificates, diplomas, and degrees, and methods for implementing the proposals endorsed by the participating nations. Included are the following materials: the preamble of the regional convention; reports of the credentials committee; addresses by representatives of participating countries and UNESCO officials; and a list of conference participants. The following countries participated in the conference: Japan, India, Australia, and Philippines, Vietnam, China, Sri Lanka, USSR, Korea, Turkey, Indonesia, Kampuchea, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Burma, Fiji, Iran, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, New Guinea, Samoa, Singapore, Thailand, and Tonga. (SW)

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International Conference of States with a View to Adoption of the Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific

ED264748

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A. INTRODUCTION

1. The International Conference of States with a View to Adoption of the Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific, convened in accordance with resolution 1/01(5/1) adopted by the General Conference at its twenty-first session, met in Bangkok (Thailand) from 12 to 16 December 1983 in response to the generous invitation of the Government of Thailand.

2. The following Member States were invited to the Conference, as full participants with the right to vote: the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, China, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, People's Republic of Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

3. The Holy See, a non-Member State, and the territories of Brunei and Hong Kong were invited to attend the Conference and sent observers to it.

4. The United Nations, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Labour Office (ILO), and the World Health Organization (WHO), sent representatives to the Conference. The South-East Asian Ministers of Education Organization was invited to the Conference and sent an observer to it.

5. The following non-governmental organizations were invited to the Conference and were represented by observers: Association of South East Asian Institutions of Higher Learning, International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies, International Federation of Catholic Universities, International Federation of University Women, World Union of Catholic Teachers and World University Service.

The complete list of participants appears in Annex VIII.

6. The Director-General submitted various documents to the Conference for consideration. A list of these is shown in Annex II. The main working document (ED-83/CONF. 102/3) contained the draft Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific, prepared by the Special Committee of Governmental Experts which met in Paris, at Unesco Headquarters, from 6 to 10 December 1982.

B. OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE AND ORGANIZATION OF ITS WORK

7. The opening ceremony of the Conference took place on 12 December 1983 in the presence of H. E. Mr Bhichai Rattakul, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand. At the opening ceremony, H. E. Mr Chuan Leekpai, Minister of Education of Thailand, extended a cordial welcome to the participants. He stressed the importance of the Convention in the mobility of students and specialists for training and employment essential for national development.

8. Mr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, Director-General of Unesco, addressing the Conference, welcomed the participants and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Thailand for its generous hospitality. He recalled that it was at its fifteenth session held in 1968 that the General Conference of Unesco initiated a series of activities designed to promote the adoption of standards of comparability and mutual recognition for diplomas and degrees in higher education. This had led to the adoption of five Conventions in different regions of the world so far. These Conventions showed striking similarities despite the fact that they responded to the unique features of the respective regions for which they were designed. It was to the sixth and final Regional Convention, for the Asia and Pacific region, that the present Conference would address itself. He described the actions that he had undertaken in the preparation of the draft Convention, drawing upon the experience of previous Conventions, and at the same time responding to the region's distinguishing characteristics, which were its great diversity of languages, of spiritual and cultural traditions and of historical experience. He stated that the questions which would be raised at the Conference and the solution found would make an important contribution to the possible preparation of a worldwide Convention. Concluding, he stressed that the Conventions gave expression to a genuine desire for understanding, co-operation and peace which existed in all regions of the world, transcending all differences and surmounting all difficulties.

9. H. E. Mr Bhichai Rattakul, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, addressed the Conference and extended to it and to the Director-General of Unesco a cordial welcome on behalf of the Government of Thailand. He referred to the tremendous advancement of knowledge and rapid scientific and technological progress taking place in the world, making the international community entirely interdependent and binding them together in a common destiny. Their participation in the United Nations and in Unesco was indeed an expression of their quest for peace and justice. In this context, he stressed the importance of Unesco's standard-setting activities designed to facilitate further education and training and employment in the various countries.

10. Referring to the vast expansion of higher education in the last two decades, of which Thailand offered a typical example, the Deputy Prime Minister emphasized the imperative need to broaden access to the resources of educational institutions in different parts of the world. He underlined the decisive contribution that education made to economic and social progress, which had been so dramatically illustrated by the outstanding economic and social progress achieved in some of the countries of Asia in recent decades. Referring to the diversity of higher education systems in Asia, he pointed out that it constituted 'an exceptional resource' which should be used for the common good. He expressed his government's confidence that the adoption of the draft Convention would contribute to this end and strengthen international co-operation.

The full text of these addresses is reproduced in Annex VI.

11. Following the inaugural ceremony, the Conference, meeting in plenary session, unanimously elected H. E. Mr Chuan Leekpai, head of the delegation of Thailand, as President.

12. On the proposal of the President, the Conference established a Credentials Committee consisting of representatives of the following countries: Bhutan, Indonesia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines. Having elected the head of the Nepalese delegation, H. E. Mr Khelendra Prasad Pandey, as its Chairman, the Committee examined the credentials of delegations and reported to the Conference. The report was adopted unanimously. As authorized by the Committee, the Chairman presented two more reports which were also unanimously adopted (the three reports appear in Annex V).

13. The provisional rules of procedure (ED-83/CONF. 102/2 Prov.) were examined and unanimously adopted by the Conference.

14. In accordance with the rules of procedure, the Conference unanimously elected the heads of the following delegations as Vice-Presidents: Australia, China, India, Malaysia and Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. Dr F. S. C. P. Kalpage, head of the delegation of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, was unanimously elected General Rapporteur of the Conference. The President, Vice-Presidents, General Rapporteur and Chairman of the Conference formed the Bureau which met twice to organize the work of the Conference.

15. The Conference also established a Drafting Committee composed of the General Rapporteur and the representatives of the following states: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, New Zealand, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Turkey and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

16. The Conference adopted its agenda (Annex I). In accordance with the rules of procedure, the Conference constituted itself as a Main Commission to discuss agenda item 8, and considered the other items in plenary sessions.

17. In the course of the Conference, the President received a letter from the heads of two delegations expressing their point of view on the presence of one delegation at the Conference. He also took note of the fact that all Member States of the Organization belonging to the Asia and Pacific region had been invited to the Conference in accordance with the decision of the Executive Board of Unesco, which in turn had been guided by the decision of the United Nations General Assembly.

C. EXAMINATION OF THE DRAFT CONVENTION

(a) General discussion

18. The Conference, meeting as the Main Commission, devoted two sessions to the discussion of the draft of the Convention as a whole. This was followed by consideration of the text chapter by chapter, together with the relevant amendments submitted by the various delegations. The following delegations took the floor in the general discussion: Japan, India, Australia,

Philippines, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, China, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Republic of Korea, Turkey, Indonesia and Democratic Kampuchea.

19. The delegations participating in the general discussion expressed satisfaction with Unesco's work to promote the recognition of studies, diplomas and degrees and with the measures taken by the Organization in the preparation of the draft Convention submitted to the Conference. They expressed their general support for and agreement in principle with the text.

20. Several speakers described the developments taking place in their higher education systems, the dynamic changes in progress and the widening of access to young people. A number of delegations drew attention to the different institutional and other structures to be found within their countries and the various mechanisms which had evolved for harmonizing such diversities in higher education systems. The proposed Convention, it was suggested, would also provide useful experience to draw upon. Many delegations drew attention to the trend towards rapid growth in inter-country movements of students and scholars, a trend affecting not only the number of students, but also the number of countries which were both giving and receiving. The delegations referred to the provisions they had made to receive foreign students and give them access to their countries' higher education establishments. It was stressed that the proposed Convention would be an important contribution to the mobility of students and scholars within the region as well as among different parts of the world. It would also play a special role in strengthening inter-country co-operation in the region and in promoting international understanding and contributing to a climate of peace.

21. The diversity of cultures and ideologies obtaining in the Asia and Pacific region was emphasized by several speakers as an outstanding resource for the region as a whole. The proposed Convention would contribute to easing such difficulties as did arise from the differences among education systems and diversities in language and traditions. Some of the delegations specially commended the proposed draft Convention for the efforts which it represented to respond to the objective needs of the countries of the region.

22. At the fourth meeting of the Main Commission, the representative of the Holy See made a statement expressing the Holy See's deep interest in the Convention. His statement is reproduced below:

> 'The Holy See, which has already ratified, acceded to, or indicated its intention of acceding to, five regional conventions on the recognition of studies, diplomas and degrees in higher education, declares its intention of acceding, as soon as possible, to the Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific, while giving its assurance that it is prepared to assume the obligations arising therefrom'.

Expressing appreciation on behalf of the Conference, the President took note of this statement.

(b) Examination of the draft Convention, chapter by chapter

23. After the general discussion, the Commission examined the draft Convention chapter by chapter. Four draft amendments to the draft Convention were submitted by the delegations (ED-83/CONF. 102/DR. 1, in three parts; DR. 2, in three parts; DR. 3 and DR. 4).

PREAMBLE TO THE DRAFT CONVENTION

24. Three of the draft resolutions referred to the text of the eighth preambular paragraph. The first part of DR. 1 (the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed an amendment to the text of the eighth preambular paragraph which consisted of deleting the phrase referring to the establishment between diplomas and degrees of an equivalence based on the notion of a strict equality of value. The second part of DR. 2, proposed by the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, was similar. DR. 3 (Rev.), from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, proposed that in the eighth preambular paragraph the words 'it may not always be possible' be replaced by the words 'it may not always be feasible'.

25. In support of DR. 1 and DR. 2 it was argued that the existing wording of the eighth preambular paragraph cast doubt on the possibility of establishing equivalence between the diplomas and degrees of different countries. In fact, in the opinion of the delegations proposing the amendments, such equivalence was always possible.

26. Several delegations taking part in the discussion pointed out that the existing phrase to which the amendments related did not have the meaning attributed to it, and that the text did not rule out the possibility of evaluating a qualification by reference to the appropriate national diploma or degree. They stressed that, given the diversity of the education systems in the region, an equivalence based on a strict equality of value was not always possible.

27. Following the discussion, DR. 2 (second part) was withdrawn. The Conference decided to adopt DR. 3 (Rev.) replacing the existing words 'it may not always be possible' by the words 'it may not always be feasible'.

28. In explanation of its vote in favour of the amendment proposed in DR. 3 (Rev.), the Soviet delegation stated that it had voted on the basis of the Russian text. The delegation of Viet Nam also stated that its vote was based on the French text.

29. With the above proviso the delegation of the USSR accepted the eighth preambular paragraph of the draft Convention as amended by DR. 3 (Rev.) which would read as follows:

'Considering that because of the diversity and complexity of courses it may not always be feasible to establish between...'.

I. DEFINITIONS

30. There were two draft resolutions referring to this chapter: the second part of DR. 1 referring to Article 1, paragraph 2(b); and the third part of DR. 2 referring to the same Article.

31. The delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in DR. 1 (second part), considered that the definition of higher education in this Article did not correspond to the definition of higher education or to accepted practice in the USSR and a number of other countries. The delegation of the USSR proposed replacing the definition of higher education appearing in the draft Convention by another wording or, if that proposal was not acceptable to other delegations, incorporating in the text of the Convention two definitions accepted in different countries. The delegation of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, in DR. 2, shared this view, proposing either deleting the definition given by the draft Convention to higher education altogether or replacing it by a new text, or if this last proposal was not agreed upon, by two different definitions.

32. Several delegations pointed out that the definitions proposed in DR. 1 (second part) and DR. 2 (third part) did not correspond to the definition of higher education in their own systems. They supported the retention of the definition as given in the draft Convention, which reflected better the diversity of educational systems in the region.

33. After detailed discussion, the Conference decided to adopt the text of Article 1, paragraph 2 (b) as worded in the draft Convention, namely, as follows: '"Higher education" means all education, training or research at post-secondary level'.

34. The delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics made a statement to the effect that their signing of the Convention would be subject to the following reservation concerning Article 1, paragraph 2(b):

'The Soviet delegation cannot accept the definition of higher education given in Article 1, paragraph 2(b), of the Convention. In the USSR, the accepted definition of higher education is as follows: "Higher education" means that stage of studies, vocational training or research work which follows secondary education and is concluded by the completion of a thesis on which the candidate is examined orally, or by the passing of final examinations and the receipt of a degree that confers, in addition to the right to independent professional activity in accordance with the qualification obtained, the right to engage in postgraduate studies and academic research work leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy or other equivalent degrees'.

35. The delegation of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam expressed disagreement with the definition of higher education contained in Article 1, paragraph 2(b) and stated that higher education should be defined as follows:

'"Higher education" means that stage of studies which follows secondary education or specialized secondary education for the purpose of training specialists possessing a high level of systematic knowledge in the fundamental sciences as well as theoretical and practical ability enabling them to work independently in their educational speciality and to take part in postgraduate education of all kinds'.

II. AIMS

36. Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Article 2 of Chapter II were adopted without change.

III. UNDERTAKINGS FOR IMMEDIATE APPLICATION

37. Article 3, Article 4, Article 5, Article 6 and Article 7 were adopted without change.

IV. MACHINERY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

38. DR. 1 (third part) presented by the USSR proposed amendments to Article 8, item (b), Article 10 and Article 11.

39. The Soviet delegation considered that the implementation of the Convention did not require a Regional Committee, the functions of which might be entrusted to the Unesco Secretariat. It also proposed that the periodic reports by the Contracting States should be submitted at five-year intervals rather than once every two years.

40. A number of delegations took part in the discussion and stressed the need for regional machinery for the implementation of the Convention. This would ensure that the Contracting States were directly involved in the implementation measures and that the efforts of the countries were interlinked not only within the region but also with other regions. It was pointed out that all five previous Conventions provided for the establishment of Regional Committees. The delegations also urged that the submission of periodic reports should be maintained at two-year intervals.

41. After the general discussion, the delegation of the USSR said that in order to reach a general consensus, it would not insist that its amendments be put to vote.

42. The Conference decided to adopt Chapter IV without change.

V. DOCUMENTATION

43. Article 12 was adopted without any changes.

VI. CO-OPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

44. Article 13 was adopted without any changes.

VII. INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF MORE THAN ONE STATE

45. Article 14 was adopted without any changes.

VIII. RATIFICATION, APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, ACCESSION AND ENTRY INTO FORCE

46. DR. 4 (Japan) proposed the replacement in the English text of the words 'endorsement' and 'endorsed' by the words 'approval' and 'approved' in the Articles in Chapter VIII. The amendment was adopted and in Articles 15, 16, 17, 18 and 22 of the English text the words 'endorsement' and 'endorsed' were replaced by 'approval' and 'approved' in order to conform with the English terminology of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

TITLE OF THE CONVENTION

47. After examining the text of all the Articles of the Draft Convention the Conference examined the title. The delegate of Viet Nam proposed that the French word 'grades' be added to the text of the French title, which would then read 'études, diplômes et grades de l'enseignement supérieur' in order to align the French text with that of the other languages and conform with the practice followed in most of the previous Conventions. The delegate of the Soviet Union, while

supporting this proposal, pointed out that the title of the Convention differed from one language to another. The English and French versions of the title disregarded the fact that there are not only degrees awarded in higher education but also further degrees awarded as a result of post-graduate training. Several delegations stated that in their countries the French word 'grades' (in English degrees) referred to all diplomas of higher education and that there was no need to distinguish between pre-doctoral and doctoral levels. After this discussion the Conference decided to amend the French title of the Convention to read as follows: 'Convention régionale sur la reconnaissance des études, des diplômes et des grades de l'enseignement supérieur en Asie et dans le Pacifique'.

D. MEETING OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE

48. The Drafting Committee met following the adoption by the Main Commission of the draft Convention. It elected the General Rapporteur as the Chairman and the head of delegation of New Zealand as Vice-Chairman. It reviewed in detail the text of the Convention as amended by the Conference and approved it, while entrusting to the Secretariat the task of making any minor editorial amendments it considered necessary before its final adoption by the Conference.

E. ADOPTION AND SIGNING OF THE CONVENTION AND THE FINAL ACT

49. At its last meeting on 16 December, the Conference adopted the draft Convention in its four languages. The Conference also unanimously adopted the text of a Final Act and the Resolution (Annex IV) inviting states of the region to become parties to the Convention as soon as possible. It then examined and adopted unanimously with some amendments the draft Final Report submitted by the General Rapporteur.

50. The Conference authorized the Unesco Secretariat to make any necessary improvements in the style and presentation of the text of the Final Report as adopted.

51. At an official ceremony held on 16 December 1983, the delegations of the following countries signed the Convention: Bhutan, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, the Philippines, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Thailand, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Signature by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was accompanied by reservations concerning, respectively, the eighth paragraph of the Preamble to the Convention and the definition of higher education given in paragraph 2(b) of the first article of the Convention. These reservations are reproduced textually in paragraphs 29 and 34 of the present Report.

52. The delegations of the following countries signed the Final Act of the Conference: Australia, Bhutan, China, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

53. At the closing ceremony, Mr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, Director-General of Unesco, addressed the Conference and expressed his profound gratification at the results it had achieved and the cordial and friendly spirit which had pervaded its deliberations. He said the experience Unesco had acquired in the context of the other Conventions, together with its support, would be at the disposal of the Member States in Asia and the Pacific in the implementation of the Convention which they had just adopted. The heads of delegations of Bhutan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics spoke and expressed the appreciation of the delegations to the Conference for the work it had achieved. The text of the closing addresses appears in Annex VII.

54. The Conference adopted by acclamation a resolution (at Annex IV) expressing gratitude to the Government of Thailand for its generous hospitality and appreciation to the persons responsible for organizing and conducting the Conference.

55. The President then addressed the Conference (text in Annex VII) and declared it closed.

ANNEX I

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of the President
3. Establishment of the Credentials Committee and consideration of its report
4. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure
5. Election of the other members of the Bureau
6. Establishment of the Drafting Committee
7. Adoption of the agenda
8. Preparation of a Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific
9. Adoption of the Convention and the Final Act
10. Adoption of the report
11. Signature of the Final Act and the Convention
12. Closure of the Conference

ANNEX II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

ED-83/CONF. 102/1	Agenda
ED-83/CONF. 102/2	Rules of Procedure
ED-83/CONF. 102/3	Director-General's Report
ED-83/CONF. 102/4	Final Report
ED-83/CONF. 102/INF. 1	General information
ED-83/CONF. 102/INF. 2	List of documents
ED-83/CONF. 102/INF. 3	List of participants

ANNEX III-1

REGIONAL CONVENTION ON THE RECOGNITION OF STUDIES, DIPLOMAS AND DEGREES IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

REGIONAL CONVENTION ON THE RECOGNITION OF STUDIES, DIPLOMAS AND DEGREES IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

PREAMBLE

The States of Asia and the Pacific, Parties to this Convention,

Guided by a common will to strengthen the bonds by which geography and history have linked them,

Recalling that, as stated in the Constitution of Unesco, 'the purpose of the Organization is to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science and culture ...',

Mindful of the need to intensify their cultural exchanges with a view to facilitating the economic, social, cultural and technological development of each and all of the countries of the region of Asia and the Pacific and to promoting peace there,

Anxious in particular to strengthen and extend their collaboration with a view to making optimum use of their potential so as to encourage the advance of knowledge and continually improve the quality of higher education and convinced that, within the framework of such collaboration, the recognition of studies, diplomas and degrees in higher education, by allowing students and specialists to move more freely, constitutes a prerequisite for accelerating the development of the region, which demands the training and full employment of increasing numbers of scientists, technicians and specialists,

Convinced that the great diversity of the cultures and higher education systems existing in the Asia and the Pacific region constitutes an exceptional resource and anxious to enable their peoples to take full advantage of this cultural resource by facilitating access for the nationals of each Contracting State, in particular its students, teachers, researchers and members of the professions, to the educational resources of the other Contracting States by

authorizing them to continue their training and research in the higher educational institutions of the other States, with due regard for their domestic legislation,

Recognizing also the substantial diversity which exists in the region in educational traditions and systems, in traditions and requirements for professional practice and in constitutional, legal and administrative arrangements,

Recalling also that many Contracting States have already concluded bilateral or subregional agreements on equivalence and recognition among themselves, but desirous, after making efforts at bilateral and subregional level and strengthening such efforts, of extending their collaboration to the whole region of Asia and the Pacific,

Considering that because of the diversity and complexity of courses it may not always be feasible to establish between diplomas or degrees of different countries, or even of different higher educational institutions in the same country, an equivalence based on the notion of a strict equality of value and that, for the purposes of authorization to move on to further stages of study, recourse should be had to a method of recognition of studies which, in the interests of both social and international mobility, allows of evaluating the level of competence reached, consideration being given to the learning attested by the diplomas or degrees obtained and to any other experience regarded by the authorities concerned as guaranteeing that competence,

Considering that the recognition by all the Contracting States of studies, certificates, diplomas and degrees obtained in any one of them is calculated to develop the mobility of persons and the exchange of ideas, knowledge and scientific and technological experience,

Noting that this recognition constitutes one of the conditions necessary for:

1. enabling means of education existing in their territories to be used as effectively as possible for the common good,
2. ensuring that teachers, students, research workers and members of the professions have greater mobility,

3. alleviating the difficulties encountered on their return by persons who have been trained abroad,

Desiring to ensure that studies, certificates, diplomas and degrees are recognized as widely as possible, taking into account the principles of the promotion of lifelong education, the democratization of education, and the adoption and application of an education policy allowing for structural, economic, technological and social changes and suited to the cultural context of each country,

Determined to sanction and organize their future collaboration in these matters by means of a convention which will be the starting-point for concerted dynamic action taken in particular by means of national, bilateral, subregional and multilateral machinery already existing or set up for the purpose,

Mindful that the ultimate objective set by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization consists in 'preparing an international convention on the recognition and the validity of degrees, diplomas and certificates issued by establishments of higher learning and research in all countries',

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

I. DEFINITIONS

Article 1

1. For the purpose of this Convention, the 'recognition' of a foreign certificate, diploma or degree of higher education means its acceptance by the competent authorities of a Contracting State and the granting to the holder of the rights enjoyed by persons possessing a national certificate, diploma or degree with which the foreign one is assessed as comparable by competent authorities within the Contracting State. Such rights extend to either the pursuit of studies or the practice of a profession, or both, according to the applicability of the recognition.

(a) Recognition of a certificate, diploma or degree with a view to undertaking or pursuing studies at the higher level shall

entitle the holder to be considered for admission to the higher educational and research institutions situated in any Contracting State under the same conditions as those applying to holders of a comparable certificate, diploma or degree issued in the Contracting State concerned. Such recognition does not exempt the holder of the foreign certificate, diploma or degree from complying with any conditions (other than those relating to the holding of a diploma or degree) which may be required for admission by the higher educational or research institution concerned in the State granting such recognition.

(b) Recognition of a foreign certificate, diploma or degree with a view to the practice of a profession constitutes recognition that the holder has received the technical training required for the practice of that profession. Such recognition does not exempt the holder of the foreign certificate, diploma or degree from complying with any other conditions for the practice of the profession concerned which may be laid down by the competent governmental or professional authorities of Contracting States concerned.

(c) However, recognition of a certificate, diploma or degree may not entitle the holder in another Contracting State to more rights than he would enjoy in the country in which it was conferred.

2. For the purposes of this Convention:

(a) 'secondary education' means that stage of studies of any kind which follows primary or elementary education and the aims of which may include the preparing of pupils for access to higher education;

(b) 'higher education' means all education, training or research at post-secondary level.

3. For the purposes of this Convention 'partial studies' means periods of study or training which, although not constituting a complete course of study, are such that they add significantly to the acquisition of knowledge or skills.

II. AIMS

Article 2

1. The Contracting States intend to contribute through their joint action to the promotion of the active co-operation of all the nations of the Asia and the Pacific region in the cause of peace and international understanding and to the development of more effective collaboration with other Member States of Unesco with regard to a more comprehensive use of their educational, technological and scientific potential.

2. The Contracting States solemnly declare their firm resolve to co-operate closely within the framework of their legislative and constitutional structures with a view to:

(a) enabling the educational and research resources available to them to be used as effectively as possible in the interests of all the Contracting States, and, for this purpose:

(i) making their higher educational institutions as widely accessible as possible to students or researchers from any of the Contracting States;

(ii) recognizing the studies, certificates, diplomas and degrees of such persons;

(iii) elaborating and adopting terminology and evaluation criteria that are as similar as possible in order to facilitate the application of a system capable of ensuring the comparability of credits, subjects of study, certificates, diplomas and degrees, and of the conditions of access to higher education;

(iv) adopting a dynamic approach in matters of admission to further stages of study, bearing in mind knowledge acquired, as attested by certificates, diplomas and degrees, and also the individual's other relevant qualifications, so far as these may be deemed acceptable by competent authorities;

(v) adopting flexible criteria for the evaluation of partial studies, based on the educational level reached and on the content of the courses taken, bearing in mind the interdisciplinary character of knowledge at higher educational levels;

(vi) establishing and improving the system for the exchange of information regarding the recognition of studies, certificates, diplomas and degrees;

(b) constantly improving curricula in the Contracting States and methods of planning and promoting higher education, including harmonization of the conditions of access to higher education on the basis of not only the requirements for economic, social and cultural development, the policies of each country and also the objectives that are set out in the recommendations made by the competent organs of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization concerning the continuous improvement of the quality of education, the promotion of lifelong education and the democratization of education, but also the aims of the full development of the human personality and of understanding, tolerance and friendship among nations and in general all aims concerning human rights assigned to education by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Unesco Convention against Discrimination in Education;

(c) promoting regional and worldwide co-operation in the matter of comparability and recognition or equivalence of studies and academic qualifications.

3. The Contracting States agree to take all feasible steps at the national, bilateral and multilateral levels, in particular by means of bilateral, subregional, regional or other agreements, arrangements between universities or other higher educational institutions and arrangements with the competent national or international organizations and other bodies, with a view to the progressive attainment of the goals defined in the present article.

III. UNDERTAKINGS FOR IMMEDIATE APPLICATION

Article 3

1. The Contracting States agree to take all feasible steps to give recognition, as defined in Article 1, paragraph 1 (a), to secondary school leaving certificates and other diplomas issued in the other Contracting States that grant access to higher education with a view to enabling the holders to undertake studies in

institutions of higher education situated in the respective territories of the Contracting States.

2. However, admission to a given educational institution may, without prejudice to the provisions of Article 1, paragraph 1 (a), be dependent on the availability of places and also on the conditions concerning linguistic knowledge required in order profitably to undertake the studies in question.

Article 4

1. The Contracting States agree to take all feasible steps with a view to:

(a) giving recognition as defined in Article 1, paragraph 1 (a), to certificates, diplomas and degrees with a view to enabling the holders to pursue advanced studies and training and undertake research in the institutions of higher education situated in their territory;

(b) defining, so far as possible, the procedure applicable to the recognition, for the purpose of the pursuit of studies, of the partial studies pursued in higher educational institutions situated in the other Contracting States.

2. The provisions of Article 3, paragraph 2, above shall apply to the cases covered by this article.

Article 5

The Contracting States agree to take all feasible steps to ensure that certificates, diplomas or degrees issued by the competent authorities of the other Contracting States are effectively recognized for the purpose of practising a profession within the meaning of Article 1, paragraph 1 (b).

Article 6

Where decisions relating to admission to educational institutions and to credit for partial studies or entry to professional practice in the territory of a Contracting State are outside the control of that State, it shall transmit the text of the Convention to the institutions and authorities concerned and use its best endeavours to obtain the acceptance by them of the principles stated in sections II and III of the Convention.

Article 7

1. Considering that recognition refers to the studies followed and the certificates, diplomas or degrees obtained in the

recognized institutions of a given Contracting State, any person, of whatever nationality or political or legal status, who has followed such studies or obtained such certificates, diplomas or degrees shall be entitled to benefit from the provisions of Articles 3, 4 and 5 above.

2. Any national of a Contracting State who has obtained in the territory of a non-Contracting State one or more certificates, diplomas or degrees comparable to those defined in Articles 3, 4 and 5 above may avail himself of those provisions which are applicable, on condition that his certificates, diplomas or degrees have been recognized in his home country and in the country in which he wishes to continue his studies.

IV. MACHINERY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Article 8

The Contracting States shall undertake to work for the attainment of the objectives defined in Article 2 and shall make their best efforts to ensure that the undertakings set forth in Articles 3, 4, 5 and 6 above are put into effect by means of:

(a) national bodies;

(b) the Regional Committee defined in Article 10 hereafter;

(c) bilateral or subregional bodies.

Article 9

1. The Contracting States recognize that the attainment of the goals and the execution of the undertakings defined in this Convention will require, at the national level, close co-operation and co-ordination of the efforts of a great variety of national authorities, whether governmental or non-governmental, particularly universities, validating bodies and other educational institutions. They therefore agree to entrust the study of the problems involved in the application of this Convention to appropriate national bodies, with which all the sectors concerned will be associated and which will propose appropriate solutions. The Contracting States will furthermore take all feasible measures required to speed up the effective functioning of these national bodies.

2. The Contracting States shall co-operate with each other to collect all information of use to them in their activities relating to studies, diplomas and degrees in higher education and other academic qualifications.

3. Every national body shall have at its disposal the necessary means to enable it either to collect, process and file all information of use to it in its activities relating to studies, diplomas and degrees in higher education, or to obtain the information it requires in this connection at short notice from a separate national documentation centre.

Article 10

1. A Regional Committee composed of representatives of the governments of Contracting States is hereby set up. Its secretariat is entrusted to the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

2. The function of the Regional Committee shall be to promote the application of this Convention. It shall receive and examine the periodic reports which the Contracting States shall communicate to it on the progress made and the obstacles encountered by them in the application of the Convention and also the studies carried out by its secretariat on the said Convention. The Contracting States undertake to submit a report to the Committee at least once every two years. Another function of the Regional Committee shall be to promote the collection, dissemination and exchange, among the States of the region, of information and documentation concerning studies, diplomas and degrees in higher education.

3. The Regional Committee shall, where appropriate, address to the Contracting States recommendations of a general or individual character concerning the application of this Convention.

Article 11

1. The Regional Committee shall elect its Chairman for each session and adopt its Rules of Procedure. It shall meet in ordinary session at least every two years. The Committee shall meet for the first time three months after the sixth instrument of ratification, approval or acceptance has been deposited.

2. The secretariat of the Regional Committee shall prepare the agenda for the meetings of the Committee, in accordance with the instructions it receives from the Committee and the provisions of the Rules of Procedure. It shall help national bodies to obtain the information needed by them in their activities.

V. DOCUMENTATION

Article 12

1. The Contracting States shall engage in exchanges of information and documentation pertaining to studies, certificates, diplomas and degrees in higher education and other academic qualifications.

2. They shall endeavour to promote the development of methods and machinery for collecting, processing, classifying and disseminating all the necessary information pertaining to the recognition of studies, certificates, diplomas and degrees in higher education, taking into account existing methods and machinery as well as information collected by national, regional, subregional and international bodies, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

VI. CO-OPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Article 13

The Regional Committee shall make all the appropriate arrangements for associating with its efforts, for the purpose of ensuring that this Convention is applied as fully as possible, the competent international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

VII. INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF MORE THAN ONE STATE

Article 14

1. The provisions of this Convention apply to studies pursued at, and to certificates, diplomas and degrees obtained from, any institution of higher education under the authority of a Contracting State, even when this institution is situated outside its territory.

2. When an institution of higher education is under the authority of a number of States, not all of which are Contracting Parties to this Convention, it shall be the responsibility of the Contracting States concerned to obtain the assent of the non-Contracting State or States in question to the full and unrestricted application of the Convention to the institution in question, and to inform the Director-General accordingly by depositing with him an official statement to that effect.

VIII. RATIFICATION, APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, ACCESSION AND ENTRY INTO FORCE

Article 15

This Convention shall be open for signature and ratification, approval or acceptance by the States of the Asia and the Pacific region which have been invited to take part in the Diplomatic Conference entrusted with the adoption of this Convention.

Article 16

1. Other States which are members of the United Nations, of one of the Specialized Agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency or which are Parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice may be authorized to accede to this Convention.

2. Any request to this effect shall be communicated to the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization who shall transmit it to the Contracting States at least three months before the meeting of the ad hoc committee referred to in paragraph 3 of this article.

3. The Contracting States shall meet as an ad hoc committee comprising one representative for each Contracting State, with an express mandate from his government to consider such a request. In such cases, the decision of the committee shall require a two-thirds majority of the Contracting States.

4. This procedure shall apply only when the Convention has been ratified, approved or accepted by at least six of the States referred to in Article 15.

Article 17

Ratification, approval or acceptance of this Convention or accession to it shall be effected by depositing an instrument of

ratification, approval, acceptance or accession with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Article 18

This Convention shall enter into force one month after the second instrument of ratification, approval or acceptance has been deposited, but solely with respect to the States which have deposited their instruments of ratification, approval or acceptance. It shall enter into force for each other State one month after that State has deposited its instrument of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession.

Article 19

1. The Contracting States shall have the right to denounce this Convention.

2. The denunciation shall be signified by an instrument in writing deposited with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

3. The denunciation shall take effect twelve months after the instrument of denunciation has been received. However, persons having benefited from the provisions of this Convention who may be pursuing studies in the territory of the State denouncing the Convention will be able to complete the course of studies they have begun.

Article 20

Any dispute between two or more Contracting States concerning the interpretation or implementation of the Convention shall be settled through consultation between the Contracting Parties concerned.

Article 21

This Convention shall not affect in any way the treaties and conventions already in force between the Contracting States or the national legislation adopted by them in so far as such treaties, conventions and legislation offer greater advantages than those provided for in the Convention.

Article 22

The Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization shall inform the Contracting States and the other States mentioned in Articles 15 and 16 above and also the United Nations of the deposit of all the instruments of ratification, approval or acceptance referred to in Article 17, accession referred to in Article 16 or official statements referred to in Article 14, as well as of the denunciations provided for in Article 19 of this Convention.

Article 23

In conformity with Article 102 of the United Nations Charter, this Convention shall be registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations at the request of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

IN FAITH WHEREOF the undersigned representatives, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this Convention.

Done at Bangkok, this sixteenth day of December 1983, in the Chinese, English, French and Russian languages, the four texts being equally authoritative, in a single copy which shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. A certified copy shall be sent to all the States referred to in Articles 15 and 16 and to the United Nations.

阿富汗民主共和国
For the Democratic Republic
of Afghanistan
Pour la République démocratique
d'Afghanistan
За Демократическую Республику
Афганистан

澳大利亚
For Australia
Pour l'Australie
За Австралию

孟加拉人民共和国
For the People's Republic
of Bangladesh
Pour la République populaire
du Bangladesh
За Народную Республику Бангладеш

不丹王国
For the Kingdom of Bhutan
Pour le Royaume du Bhoutan
За Королевство Бутан

缅甸联邦社会主义共和国
For the Socialist Republic of
the Union of Burma
Pour la République socialiste
de l'Union birmane
За Социалистическую Республику
Бирманский Союз

中华人民共和国
For the People's Republic of China
Pour la République populaire de Chine
За Китайскую Народную Республику

民主柬埔寨
For Democratic Kampuchea
Pour le Kampuchea démocratique
За Демократическую Кампучию

朝鲜民主主义人民共和国
For the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Pour la République populaire démocratique de Corée
За Корейскую Народно-Демократическую Республику

斐济
For Fiji
Pour Fidji
За Фиджи

印度共和国
For the Republic of India
Pour la République de l'Inde
За Республику Индия

M. R. Kolhatkar

印度尼西亚共和国
For the Republic of Indonesia
Pour la République d'Indonésie
За Республику Индонезия

伊朗伊斯兰共和国

For the Islamic Republic
of Iran
Pour la République islamique
d'Iran
За Исламскую Республику Иран

日本国

For Japan
Pour le Japon
За Японию

老挝人民民主共和国

For the Lao People's Democratic
Republic
Pour la République démocratique
populaire lao
За Лаосскую Народно-Демократическую
Республику

马来西亚

For Malaysia
Pour la Malaisie
За Малайзию

马尔代夫共和国

For the Republic of Maldives
Pour la République des Maldives
За Мальдивскую Республику

蒙古人民共和国

For the Mongolian People's
Republic
Pour la République populaire
mongole
За Монгольскую Народную
Республику

尼泊尔王国
For the Kingdom of Nepal
Pour le Royaume du Népal
За Королевство Непал

Khelendra Prasad Pandey
Dec 16, 1983

新西兰
For New Zealand
Pour la Nouvelle-Zélande
За Новую Зеландию

巴基斯坦伊斯兰共和国
For the Islamic Republic of
Pakistan
Pour la République islamique
du Pakistan
За Исламскую Республику
Пакистан

巴布亚新几内亚
For Papua New Guinea
Pour la Papouasie-Nouvelle-Guinée
За Папуа-Новую Гвинею

菲律宾共和国
For the Republic of the
Philippines
Pour la République des Philippines
За Республику Филиппины

Dec. 16, 1983

大韩民国
For the Republic of Korea
Pour la République de Corée
За Корейскую Республику

萨摩亚

For Samoa
Pour le Samoa
За Самоа

新加坡共和国

For the Republic of Singapore
Pour la République de Singapour
За Республику Сингапур

越南社会主义共和国

For the Socialist Republic of
Viet Nam
Pour la République socialiste
du Viet Nam
За Социалистическую Республику
Вьетнам

斯里兰卡民主社会主义共和国

For the Democratic Socialist
Republic of Sri Lanka
Pour la République socialiste
démocratique de Sri Lanka
За Демократическую Социалистическую
Республику Шри-Ланка

泰王国

For the Kingdom of Thailand
Pour le Royaume de Thaïlande
За Королевство Таиланд

汤加王国
For the Kingdom of Tonga
Pour le Royaume des Tonga
За Королевство Тонга

土耳其共和国
For the Republic of Turkey
Pour la République turque
За Турецкую Республику

Faruk B. Somer

苏维埃社会主义共和国联盟
For the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics
Pour l'Union des républiques
socialistes soviétiques
За Союз Советских Социалистических
Республик

Н. Сорокин
с оговоркой по
ст. 1, п. 2 b

ANNEX III-2

FINAL ACT
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATES WITH A VIEW TO ADOPTION OF THE REGIONAL CONVENTION ON THE RECOGNITION OF STUDIES, DIPLOMAS AND DEGREES IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

FINAL ACT
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATES WITH A VIEW TO ADOPTION OF THE REGIONAL CONVENTION ON THE RECOGNITION OF STUDIES, DIPLOMAS AND DEGREES IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The International Conference of States convened by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization with a view to adoption of the Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific was held at Bangkok, at the invitation of the Government of Thailand, from 12 to 16 December 1983, with H.E. Mr Chuan Leekpai, Minister of Education, head of the delegation of Thailand, as President, and in the presence of Mr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, Director-General of Unesco.

The Conference established a Credentials Committee, chaired by H.E. Mr Khelendra Prasad Pandey, Ambassador of Nepal to Thailand, and a Drafting Committee, chaired by Dr F.S.C.P. Kalpage, head of the delegation of Sri Lanka and General Rapporteur of the Conference.

The Conference examined the text drawn up by the Special Committee of Governmental Experts responsible for preparing a Draft Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific, which met at Unesco Headquarters, Paris, from 6 to 10 December 1982.

The Conference, having made a few amendments to the text, adopted the Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific and a report on its work, prepared by its General Rapporteur.

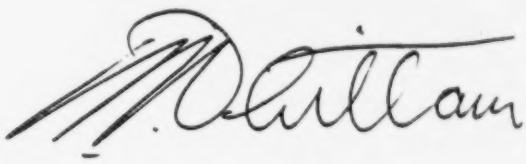
The text of the Convention is established in the Chinese, English, French and Russian languages, the four versions being equally authentic.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, the delegates of the States participating in the Conference have signed this Final Act.

Done at Bangkok, this sixteenth day of December 1983, in the Chinese, English, French and Russian languages, the original to be deposited in these four languages in the archives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

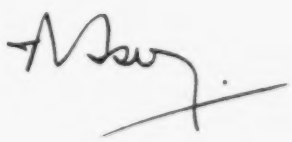
阿富汗民主共和国
For the Democratic Republic
of Afghanistan
Pour la République démocratique
d'Afghanistan
За Демократическую Республику
Афганистан

澳大利亚
For Australia
Pour l'Australie
За Австралию



孟加拉人民共和国
For the People's Republic
of Bangladesh
Pour la République populaire
du Bangladesh
За Народную Республику Бангладеш

不丹王国
For the Kingdom of Bhutan
Pour le Royaume du Bhoutan
За Королевство Бутан



缅甸联邦社会主义共和国
For the Socialist Republic of
the Union of Burma
Pour la République socialiste
de l'Union birmane
За Социалистическую Республику
Бирманский Союз

中华人民共和国
For the People's Republic of China
Pour la République populaire de Chine
За Китайскую Народную Республику

民主柬埔寨
For Democratic Kampuchea
Pour le Kampuchea démocratique
За Демократическую Кампучию

朝鲜民主主义人民共和国
For the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Pour la République populaire démocratique de Corée
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斐济
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印度共和国
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Pour la République de l'Inde
За Республику Индия

M. R. Kollanthai

印度尼西亚共和国
For the Republic of Indonesia
Pour la République d'Indonésie
За Республику Индонезия

伊朗伊斯兰共和国
For the Islamic Republic
of Iran
Pour la République islamique
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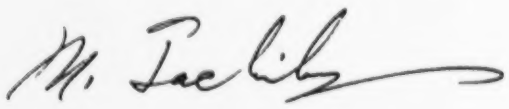
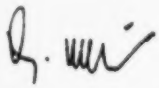
За Исламскую Республику Иран

日本国
For Japan
Pour le Japon
За Японию



老挝人民民主共和国
For the Lao People's Democratic
Republic
Pour la République démocratique
populaire lao
За Лаосскую Народно-Демократическую
Республику



马来西亚
For Malaysia
Pour la Malaisie
За Малайзию

马尔代夫共和国
For the Republic of Maldives
Pour la République des Maldives
За Мальдивскую Республику

蒙古人民共和国
For the Mongolian People's
Republic
Pour la République populaire
mongole
За Монгольскую Народную
Республику

尼泊尔王国
For the Kingdom of Nepal
Pour le Royaume du Népal
За Королевство Непал

Khadanda Prasad Pandey.
Dec 16, 1983

新西兰
For New Zealand
Pour la Nouvelle-Zélande
За Новую Зеландию

16 Dec 1983

巴基斯坦伊斯兰共和国
For the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Pour la République islamique du Pakistan
За Исламскую Республику Пакистан

Dec 16, 1983.

巴布亚新几内亚
For Papua New Guinea
Pour la Papouasie-Nouvelle-Guinée
За Папуа-Новую Гвинею

16th. Dec. 1983.

菲律宾共和国
For the Republic of the Philippines
Pour la République des Philippines
За Республику Филиппины

Dec. 16, 1983

大韩民国
For the Republic of Korea
Pour la République de Corée
За Корейскую Республику

Tai Bom Chang

萨摩亚

For Samoa
Pour le Samoa
За Самоа

新加坡共和国

For the Republic of Singapore
Pour la République de Singapour
За Республику Сингапур

越南社会主义共和国

For the Socialist Republic of
Viet Nam
Pour la République socialiste
du Viet Nam
За Социалистическую Республику
Вьетнам

斯里兰卡民主社会主义共和国

For the Democratic Socialist
Republic of Sri Lanka
Pour la République socialiste
démocratique de Sri Lanka
За Демократическую Социалистическую
Республику Шри-Ланка

泰王国

For the Kingdom of Thailand
Pour le Royaume de Thaïlande
За Королевство Таиланд

汤加王国
For the Kingdom of Tonga
Pour le Royaume des Tonga
За Королевство Тонга

土耳其共和国
For the Republic of Turkey
Pour la République turque
За Турецкую Республику

苏维埃社会主义共和国联盟
For the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics
Pour l'Union des républiques
socialistes soviétiques
За Союз Советских Социалистических
Республик

ANNEX IV

RESOLUTION
Presented by the Philippines

Expressing the sentiments of the participants in the International Conference of States convened to adopt a Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand, 12-16 December 1983.

The delegates and observers participating in the International Conference of States convened to adopt a Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific, on behalf of their respective governments and organizations at the closing of their five-day historic meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, on 16 December 1983, take great pleasure in:

1. Expressing their deep appreciation and gratitude to the Government and People of the Kingdom of Thailand for their having generously offered to host the timely and historic Conference held in their beautiful capital city of Bangkok and for their gracious and cordial welcome and hospitality,

2. Expressing their deep appreciation and gratitude to His Excellency Mr Bhichai Rattakul, Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of Thailand, for his presence at the ceremonies opening the Conference and thus giving the Conference the significance and importance that it deserved,

3. Expressing their congratulations and appreciation to His Excellency Mr Chuan Leekpai, Minister of Education of Thailand, and the President of the Conference, and to His Excellency Mr Gough Whitlam, Ambassador of Australia to Unesco and Vice-President of the Conference, for their ably guiding the proceedings of the Conference to a successful conclusion,

4. Expressing their deep appreciation and gratitude to the Unesco Director-General for his presence during the Conference, and thus providing the inspiration and giving historic significance to the work of the Conference, and for his well-known concern for the countries of the Asia-Pacific region, and to the other officials and members of his staff who provided invaluable services to the Conference,

5. Expressing their appreciation and gratitude to the co-operation extended by the Unesco National Commission of Thailand under the leadership of its Secretary-General,

6. Expressing their satisfaction and appreciation for the good work done by the Assistant Director-General of the Unesco Regional Office for Education in the Asia-Pacific Region and his staff in the preparation and management of the Conference.

Done in Bangkok, Thailand, 16 December 1983.

ANNEX V

REPORTS OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

ANNEX V-1

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

First Report

1. The Credentials Committee, established by the Conference on 12 December 1983, held a meeting on that day, at 12.30 p.m. The Committee consisted of delegates of the following states: Bhutan, Indonesia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea and Philippines.

2. The Committee elected as its Chairman H.E. Khelendra Prasad Pandey, Head of the Delegation of Nepal.

3. In accordance with the provisions of Rules 3, 4 and 7 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure, the Committee examined the credentials received by the Secretariat of the Conference.

4. The Committee noted that the delegations of the states listed below, which had been invited to attend the Conference under the terms of Rule 1 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure, were duly empowered, in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of Rule 3 of those Rules, to participate in the Conference, and also had the full powers required for signing the Convention to be adopted:

Bhutan
Democratic Kampuchea
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
India
Philippines
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
Turkey
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

5. The Committee recommended that the delegations of these states be authorized to participate in the work of the Conference and to sign the Convention.

6. Having heard the explanations of the delegates concerned, the Committee considered that the credentials presented by the following states could be interpreted as empowering them, in accordance with Rule 3, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure, to participate in the Conference and to sign the Convention:

China
Indonesia
Nepal

7. The Committee recommended that the delegations of these states be authorized to participate in the work of the Conference and to sign the Convention.

8. The Committee noted that the delegations of the states listed below, which had been invited to the Conference under the terms of Rule 1 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure, were duly empowered, in accordance with Rule 3, paragraph 1 of the aforesaid Rules, to participate in the Conference:

Australia
Japan
Malaysia
New Zealand
Papua New Guinea
Republic of Korea
Sri Lanka
Thailand

9. The Committee recommended that the delegations of these states be authorized to participate in the work of the Conference.

10. The delegations of the states listed below presented documents that did not fulfil the conditions set out in Rule 3, paragraph 1, of the Provisional Rules of Procedure:

Bangladesh
Islamic Republic of Iran

11. The Committee proposed that in conformity with Rule 4, paragraph 2, of the Provisional Rules of Procedure these documents be accepted as constituting provisional powers vested in the delegations of the states listed in the preceding paragraph of this report, subject to subsequent compliance with the provisions of Rule 3, paragraph 1, of the Provisional Rules of Procedure, and that, in the meantime, these delegations be authorized to take part in the work of the Conference and to be seated provisionally with the same rights as the other delegations.

12. The Committee examined the credentials of the delegations of the following states and territories invited to the Conference as observers:

Holy See
Brunei
Hong Kong
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

13. The Committee examined the credentials of the following intergovernmental organizations invited to the Conference in compliance with Rule 2, paragraphs (b) and (c) of the Provisional Rules of Procedure:

United Nations
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
United Nations Development Programme
World Health Organization
International Labour Office
South East Asian Ministers of Education Organization

14. The Committee lastly examined the credentials of the observers of the following international non-governmental organizations invited to the Conference in compliance with Rule 2, paragraph (d) of the Provisional Rules of Procedure:

World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession
International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies
International Federation of Free Teachers' Unions
Association of South East Asian Institutions of Higher Learning
World University Service
International Federation of University Women
International Federation of Catholic Universities
World Union of Catholic Teachers

15. The Committee noted that a number of states that had been invited to the Conference had not yet sent credentials empowering a delegation, and expressed the wish that such credentials be transmitted as soon as possible to the Secretariat.

16. Furthermore, the Committee authorized its Chairman to report directly to the Conference with respect to any powers received before the next meeting of the Committee.

ANNEX V-2

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

First Report of the Chairman

As mandated by the Credentials Committee, which authorized me to report direct to the Conference with respect to any powers received after the meeting of the Committee, I have the honour to inform the Conference that since that meeting the delegations of the following states have submitted documents of accreditation:

Lao People's Democratic Republic
Pakistan

These documents do not fulfil the conditions laid down in Rule 3, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Procedure. However, I have the honour to propose that, in accordance with Rule 4, paragraph 2, of the Rules of Procedure, they be accepted as constituting provisional powers vested in the delegations of those states, subject to subsequent compliance, with the provisions of Rule 3, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Procedure, and that these delegations be authorized meanwhile to take part in the work of the Conference and to be seated provisionally with the same rights as the other delegations.

ANNEX V-3

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Second Report of the Chairman

As mandated by the Credentials Committee, which authorized me to report direct to the Conference with respect to any powers received after the meeting of the Committee, I have the honour to inform you that, in accordance with Rule 3, paragraph 2, of the Rules of Procedure, the delegations of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and of Thailand have submitted full powers authorizing them to sign the Convention which is to be adopted.

On behalf of the Committee I have the honour to propose to the Conference that these delegations be authorized to sign the Convention.

ANNEX VI

OPENING ADDRESSES

Address by H. E. Mr Chuan Leekpai
Minister of Education of Thailand
Chairman of the Thailand National Commission for Unesco

Your Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister,
Mr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, Director-General of Unesco,
Distinguished Participants,
Honoured Guests,

On behalf of the Ministry of Education and on my own behalf, may I express my grateful thanks to His Excellency Mr Bhichai Rattakul, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand. His acceptance to preside at the inauguration of this important Conference reflects the Thai Government's interest and support for regional co-operation through Unesco. May I, on this occasion, extend warmest welcome to representatives of Unesco Member States and international organizations. My specially warm welcome also goes to Mr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, Director-General of Unesco, who, out of his personal interest in regional activities in Asia and the Pacific, has accepted the Thai Government's invitation to be with all of us at this Conference, and to visit some of the Unesco programmes in Thailand. The presence of all the distinguished personalities in this gathering also attests to the importance of the subject of the Conference to the development of our region.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, within the framework of Unesco's collaboration, the recognition of studies, diplomas and degrees in higher education is no doubt a matter of great significance, for mobility of students and specialists for training and employment is indeed a prerequisite for development in all countries. Already, five regional conventions have been drawn up and concluded, at Unesco's initiative, in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Arab and European states bordering the Mediterranean, the Arab states, and those in the European and African regions. Asia will be the last region to adopt such a convention. This Conference of States, therefore, will finalize and approve the draft convention, which has been carefully prepared and reviewed at the Special Committee of Governmental Experts in December last year. This Conference of States, therefore, can be seen as an important step in Unesco's pursuit of its task.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Thailand National Commission for Unesco is pleased to co-host this most important Conference with Unesco. In so doing, generous co-operation has been received from various governmental agencies in Thailand, in particular the Ministry of University Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Civil Service Commission. May I therefore place on record here my sincere thanks and appreciation.

Finally, I very much hope that all the distinguished delegates will find their participation in the Conference a fruitful one, and their stay in Bangkok, no matter how brief, a truly profitable one.

Thank you.

Address by Mr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow
Director-General of the United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

Mr Deputy Prime Minister,
Mr Minister of Education,
Distinguished Delegates,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is both an honour and a pleasure for me to open in your presence the International Conference of States with a view to Adoption of the Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific.

At the generous invitation of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, we are gathering today in its magnificent capital of Bangkok, where daily life is deeply imbued with spirituality; where nature and art join forces to enrich the meaning of life; where tradition and progress are intermingled at every turn; where material development and international co-operation go hand in hand; and where Unesco could not be more gratified, from every point of view, to have the headquarters of its Regional Co-ordinator for Asia and the Pacific.

I should like to express my deep gratitude to the Prime Minister, General Prem Tinasulanonda, to his Government, and especially to you, Mr Bhichai Rattakul, Deputy Prime Minister, whose presence in our midst adds lustre to this ceremony, for the warm hospitality with which we were received and for all the efforts made to provide our Conference with the best possible working conditions. May I also be permitted to express my gratitude to Mr Chuan Leekpai, the Minister of Education, who has taken such pains, together with the Thai National Commission which he presides, to ensure that the appropriate measures were taken to prepare for the Conference.

I am happy to greet the delegations of Member States of the region; their composition bears witness to the importance that these states accord to international and regional co-operation in education. I should also like to extend a greeting to the observers of Member States from regions other than Asia and the Pacific, to the observer of the Holy See and to the observers of non-Member States belonging to the region. Likewise, I am delighted to see here today representatives of sister agencies of the United Nations system, and also observers of international non-governmental organizations, whose presence here clearly demonstrates their interest in regional co-operation and in Unesco's activities in this part of the world.

Mr Deputy Prime Minister,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It was at its fifteenth session, held in 1968, that the General Conference of Unesco decided on a series of activities designed to promote the adoption of standards of comparability and mutual recognition for higher education diplomas and degrees.

At that time the purpose was to draw up an international convention sanctioning the recognition and validity of the degrees and diplomas conferred by higher education and research establishments in all countries.

It soon became apparent however that this objective would be more effectively attained if the problems were first tackled region by region, since each of the regions frequently had common features, if not convergent aspirations.

Accordingly, five regional conventions were prepared and adopted before the one which is the subject of this Conference. The first Convention, for Latin America and the Caribbean, was

adopted in Mexico City on 19 July 1974 and entered into force on 14 June 1975. The second Convention, for the Arab States and European States bordering on the Mediterranean, was adopted in Nice, France, on 17 December 1976 and entered into force on 6 March 1978. The third Convention, for the Arab States, adopted in Paris on 22 December 1978, entered into force on 7 August 1981. The fourth Convention, for the Europe Region, was adopted in Paris on 21 December 1979 and entered into force on 19 February 1982. The fifth and most recent was adopted for the African States in Arusha, Tanzania, on 5 December 1981 and entered into force on 1 January 1983.

All these instruments show marked similarities. They specify, in virtually identical terms, the procedures to be followed in order to establish recognition for studies and various academic qualifications, and they indicate ways of ensuring co-operation among the States Parties in order to attain the proposed objectives, in particular those that will help overcome some of the obstacles to the international mobility of students, teachers, researchers and members of the professions.

The sixth and final regional Convention - for Asia and the Pacific, which you are about to consider - was drawn up in the same way as its predecessors. It too has been meticulously prepared on the basis of broad region-wide consultation.

In implementation of 21 C/Resolution 1/01 (paragraph 5 (1)), under which the General Conference decided at its twenty-first session to convene this International Conference of States, I prepared a preliminary report and a preliminary draft Convention which were transmitted to all countries concerned with a circular letter dated 25 November 1981. On the basis of the replies sent to me, a revised preliminary draft Convention was prepared and submitted to a Special Committee of Governmental Experts which met in Paris from 6 to 10 December 1982. This Committee finalized the draft Convention that is submitted for your attention.

The basic document before you - the Director-General's report ED-83/CONF. 102/3 - contains, at Annex I, the draft Convention adopted by the Special Committee together with the Committee's final report at Annex II and a statement by a Member State concerning this report at Annex II-1. A draft amendment submitted by a participating state has been circulated as document ED-83/CONF. 102/DR. 1.

The aims set forth in the draft Convention are basically the same as those appearing in the Conventions that have already been concluded. They demonstrate the resolve of the states of the region to co-operate closely with one another with a view to enabling their educational and research resources to be used as effectively as possible.

To this end each state is urged, inter alia, to make its higher educational institutions as widely accessible as possible to students or researchers from any of the other states; to recognize by appropriate ways and means the university studies, diplomas and degrees of the other states; to elaborate and adopt terminology and evaluation criteria that are as similar as possible; to adopt flexible standards making it possible to bear in mind, from one country to another, the individual knowledge acquired, as attested by certificates, diplomas and degrees as well as by any other competent authority.

While including considerations that are to be found in the instruments already prepared in the various regions, the Convention that you are about to finalize for Asia and the Pacific is of special interest.

This region differs from the others in that it displays a very great diversity of languages, of spiritual and cultural traditions and of historical experience. Hence the variety of educational systems in place and the special nature of the problems posed for the establishment of mutual recognition of diplomas, degrees, studies and qualifications. The questions raised here and the solutions that are found to them are thus likely to make a most important contribution to the possible preparation of a worldwide Convention. I therefore hope that your deliberations will result in the widest measure of agreement and that the Convention will be signed and swiftly ratified by all your states.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thanks to the tremendous efforts undertaken by Unesco over the past fifteen years, a few areas of co-operation, at first isolated and uncertain, have gradually increased in number until they now practically cover the whole world. I should like to attach to this endeavour a significance that goes beyond its immediate area of application.

Address by Mr Bhichai Rattakul
Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand

It gives me great pleasure indeed to be here this morning in a distinguished gathering of eminent personalities and scholars. On behalf of the Government of Thailand and on my own behalf, allow me to extend to you all a cordial warm welcome to our country. A special welcome is to be extended to the esteemed Mr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, who has once more graciously accepted to be our guest. His personal participation in this International Conference, the highest in Unesco's categories of meetings, will further enhance its significance. His observation of the various Unesco-assisted projects in Thailand will undoubtedly give fresh impetus to these activities. May I also extend to our esteemed Mr M'Bow my heartiest congratulations for the award of an honorary Degree of Doctor of Education by the Chulalongkorn University in recognition of his personal merit and significant contribution to educational development in all parts of the world.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the past decades, the world has witnessed a tremendous advancement of knowledge and rapid scientific and technological progress. Application of modern communication technology has rendered the international community entirely interdependent. All nations, large and small, have consequently been bound together by a common destiny. In joining the United Nations and its related agencies, these countries have avowed to further the cause of peace and justice. Thus, under the sponsorship of Unesco, educational, scientific and cultural exchanges are encouraged with the objective of accelerating economic and social development of all Member States. Unesco's standard-setting activities, with a view to facilitating further training and employment in other countries, have therefore always warranted our strong support.

The past two decades have also witnessed an unprecedented expansion of higher education, as the number of post-secondary students increased by almost four times, going up from 12.5 million to over 47 million. Thailand has found herself no exception to this world phenomenon. During the period of the Second National Economic and Social Development Plan 1967-1971, higher education was expanded to meet the country's urgent needs of manpower in various fields; universities and institutions of higher learning were established in different parts of the country with a view to accelerating rural development, and avoiding the over-concentration of students in our capital city of Bangkok. And yet the demand for education at this level was so pressing that two open universities were successively established, namely, Ramkamhaeng University in 1971, and Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University seven years later in 1978. These two institutions have played a major role in providing professional education, enabling the people to raise their educational standards in response to our development needs.

To meet the demand for indigenous high-level manpower in various fields, Thailand has also been taking advantage of the resources available in educational institutions in other regions, particularly those in the West in early days, and, more recently, those nearer home in Asia and the Pacific region. The Ministry of University Affairs has been providing facilities for acceptance of academic qualifications obtained from abroad, while certain cases are referred to its Sub-Committee for Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees for consideration. Such machinery, Ladies and Gentlemen, helps to overcome one of the major obstacles to the mobility of students, teachers and technicians, and to mitigate the problem of the brain drain, commonly faced by many developing countries.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We in Asia and the Pacific are most proud of the potential of our region. Recent economic and social progress made by some countries has also been so outstanding that the 'Look East

Policy' has been adopted by many. Educational systems, particularly those at the higher level, have undoubtedly contributed to this achievement. The diversity of higher education systems in the region therefore constitutes an exceptional resource, which should be availed of as effectively as possible for our common good. Unesco's initiative in facilitating the mobility of students and specialists within the region, in particular scientists and technicians, therefore receives our full support. And in this connection I fully appreciate the difficulties experienced by the Organization in proposing a standard-setting instrument for a region so diverse in educational systems, in traditions and requirements for professional practice, and in legal and administrative procedures. But with your collective wisdom, and with your genuine concern for regional development, however, I am quite sure the Conference will proceed smoothly and successfully conclude with the adoption of an instrument compatible with the real needs of the countries in our region. The Convention will undeniably help strengthen co-operation among peoples in our part of the world.

May I, on this note, declare open the International Conference of States with a view to Adoption of the Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific. I wish you all every success in your deliberations.

Thank you.

ANNEX VII

CLOSING ADDRESSES

Address by Mr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow
Director-General of the United Nations Educational
Scientific and Cultural Organization

Mr President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

After a week of hard work and frank discussion conducted in a spirit of mutual respect your Conference is now concluding with the unanimous adoption of the Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific.

This Convention is an undisputed achievement for your whole region, the culmination of the outstanding work of all your states at each stage in the drawing up of the Convention submitted to you and in the preparation of this Conference. On behalf of Unesco, and on my own behalf, I should like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you.

This achievement also owes a great deal to the hospitality and friendly atmosphere with which the Thai authorities have surrounded this Conference, enabling it to run both smoothly and efficiently. Allow me, on behalf of all of us, to express to them my warmest and most sincere gratitude.

Mr Chuan Leekpai, I should particularly like to tell you, as President, how much this Conference owes to the authority, tact and competence with which you presided over the key periods of the debate, and also to the courtesy and firmness of the Vice-President who replaced you on occasion, H.E. the Honourable Mr E.G. Whitlam, and to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee and the General Rapporteur of the Conference, Dr F.S.C.P. Kalpage, and the Chairman of the Credentials Committee, H.E. Mr Khelendra Prasad Pandey, and all the other members of the Bureau for their invaluable assistance.

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

With the adoption of the Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific, a whole programme of work has now been completed. A great deal of time and patient effort has been expended throughout the world, but this work has been commensurate with the needs of our times and with the responsibilities we bear. The programme of work has covered almost ten years, in the course of which all the regions of the world, one by one, have established standards for the mutual recognition of studies, diplomas and degrees in higher education.

Yours was thus the last of the six regional conferences of states convened by Unesco for this purpose. It was the Conference at which the number of amendments proposed and of changes made to the draft text submitted to it was the smallest.

This is no doubt a result of the experience gained by Unesco in this field at the previous conferences, from which yours naturally benefited. It is also due to the high quality of the work done in Paris last year by the governmental experts whom you designated to put the finishing touches to the draft text of the Convention. But it is essentially thanks to the determination of your governments to face the difficulties and to overcome all the obstacles in the way of unanimous agreement that it has been possible to solve all the problems so speedily.

I feel sure that your governments will be keen to develop their co-operation rapidly on the basis of the new instrument that you have just adopted, and that they will respond to the appeal addressed to them by promptly signing and becoming parties to the Convention.

The application of this Convention will, of course, require further consultations and co-ordination work, to which Unesco will naturally lend its full support. As far as I am concerned, I shall take all necessary steps to help your states in the task awaiting them.

I shall give special attention to the smooth functioning of the Regional Committee that you have decided to set up to monitor the application of the Convention and whose importance you have all stressed. I shall also examine with close attention all the suggestions and proposals you have made, in particular those concerning the studies on the progress achieved and the obstacles encountered in the performance of their tasks by the Committees set up under the Regional Conventions.

The experience acquired in this way will be extremely useful in solving the problems raised by the implementation of the various conventions.

With the adoption of the Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific a whole series of efforts - as I just said - will come to an end. However, a new task now awaits us. This is the attainment of the goal set by the General Conference at its fifteenth session in 1968 - which will lead to the preparation of a convention of worldwide scope. It is now possible for us to envisage such an instrument, whose preparation we can now begin to consider.

Mr President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Conference has demonstrated a genuine desire for regional co-operation, based on mutual respect and confidence in the future. It will thus broadcast a message of hope not only to the region of Asia and the Pacific, but to all the other continents.

From the profusion of civilizations and cultures which make up the life of your vast region you have drawn the inspiration and energy needed to blaze new trails, which will draw you more closely together and which will help all your peoples to understand one another better and your entire region to work more effectively for the advancement of knowledge, peace and international co-operation.

Allow me once again to express our profound gratitude to Thailand, which has offered you its beautiful capital, its ancient wisdom and a sense of hospitality which is one of its natural resources.

Address by Mrs T. P. Tsering
Deputy Director of Education, Education Department
Head of Delegation of Bhutan

Mr President, I also wish to second the draft resolution moved by the distinguished Head of the Delegation of the Philippines. Signing the Final Act the International Conference of States on the Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific on behalf of the Kingdom of Bhutan, has been an emotional experience for me considering the historical significance of the event. Bhutan is very happy to join with many other Member States of Asia and the Pacific Region in this great regional undertaking. I am overtaken by another emotion, that of appreciation and gratitude for the host country of Thailand for having provided the right atmosphere of friendliness and for the host Government of Thailand for its hospitality.

I also wish to take this opportunity for expressing our deep appreciation of the efficient arrangements made by the Secretariat headed by the distinguished Director-General. I therefore join the distinguished delegate of the Philippines in commending the draft resolution before us to the Conference.

Thank you Mr President.

Address by H.E. Mr Khamphan Simmalavong
Ambassador of the Lao People's Democratic Republic
Head of Delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

Mr President,
Distinguished Delegates,

It is a great pleasure for the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to join the previous speakers in expressing, first of all, to His Excellency Mr Bhichai Rattakul, Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, who was kind enough to honour the opening ceremony of the Conference with his presence, and also to you, Mr President, and to the Vice-President and other members of the Bureau, my warm and very sincere congratulations on the successful conclusion of the work of our meeting, and on the preservation intact of the spirit of understanding and co-operation that has always prevailed in the discussions of meetings organized by Unesco. More particularly, I should like, through you, Mr President, to express my heartfelt thanks to the Government and people of Thailand who have so readily offered their hospitality to our delegation as to all the delegations, and also placed all the necessary facilities at our disposal during our stay in Bangkok. Thailand, which is well known for the generosity of its hospitality, has, once more, made a very valuable contribution to the work of our Conference. Without it, it would have been difficult to achieve the expected results, as we have today.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the Director-General of Unesco and to all the staff of that Organization, who so efficiently prepared this Conference and who have subsequently done so much to ease our task, enabling it to be positive and, above all, fruitful. My heartfelt thanks also go to those whom we rarely see, but whose voices we have heard every day; I refer to the interpreters, who have performed their duty to perfection, thereby contributing to the successful conclusion of our work in a spirit of goodwill and mutual understanding, that is to say to the signature today of the Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific.

Thank you.

Address by Mrs Mina Siaguru
Chairperson, Commission for Higher Education
Delegate of Papua New Guinea

Thank you for giving me the opportunity of seconding the draft resolution which has just been moved by the distinguished Head of the Delegation of the Philippines.

We have just witnessed the signing by a large number of Member States of Asia and the Pacific of the Convention and/or the Final Act, which are documents of historical significance for the region.

This is the first time that Papua New Guinea has attended such a Conference and to a certain extent I think this will explain and I hope, not excuse, the lack of participation in the events of this rather exciting but nevertheless important meeting.

Higher education is of recent development in Papua New Guinea, our first university being established in 1966. We now have a number of institutions totalling some sixty. We have a policy for overseas students which, at the moment, is limited to our Pacific neighbours. This Convention is important to Papua New Guinea in the sense that we would like to maintain our links with the Pacific but at the same time open up and establish new links with the Asian Region; I think this Convention provides this for us.

Sir, among the factors that have helped us to arrive at this agreement in such a short time have been the hospitality and the environment which are conducive to co-operation, the objective of this Convention.

I join with other members of the delegations in expressing my sincere gratitude to the people of Thailand. I would like to say further, Sir, that this hospitality has been recognized by me not only in my capacity as a Unesco delegate attending this Conference but also as a visitor, walking down your streets or eating in the food stores; the hospitality experienced by me as a visitor was exactly the same as that extended to me as a delegate from my country. This to me, Sir, is the indication of true friendliness.

I hope that the signing of the Convention will act as a stimulus to those of us who for some reason were not able to sign.

I therefore have great pleasure in seconding the draft resolution of the delegation of the Philippines.

Thank you.

Thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving me the floor once again. Mr President, my statement was supposed to have been after the resolution put forward by the distinguished delegate of the Philippines. I am sorry that the order of the speakers became reversed.

Thank you very much.

Address by H.E. Mr Jacobo C. Clave
Minister, Presidential Adviser on Civil Service and Government Reorganization
Philippine Permanent Representative to Unesco
Head of Delegation of the Philippines

Mr President,

We have come to formally adopt a Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education.

Some of us had apprehensions that our work would meet great difficulties aware of our diverse historical, political, social, cultural, religious backgrounds and geographic conditions. Here we have a gathering of the big - China, USSR, India, Indonesia, Australia - and the small nations.

But we have succeeded, Mr President. In fact, we have succeeded exceedingly.

We wish to attribute this success to at least three factors.

Firstly, aware of our diversities and diverse conditions, we appeared more prepared to accommodate each other; we were at the same time conscious of the urgency of our task of establishing ourselves into a community of nations linked by goodwill and understanding. The Convention is a step in that direction.

Secondly, Mr President, there is the goodwill, which you and your government and people accorded us. We felt that goodwill - the hospitality, generosity and friendship - from the time we landed at the Bangkok airport. It pervaded our meetings from the opening day up to our last meeting today.

Your Deputy Prime Minister, His Excellency Mr Rattakul, and your goodself, set the tone of the Conference in your keynote speeches.

Thirdly, Mr President, we were inspired and encouraged by the presence in Bangkok of our Unesco Director-General, Mr M'Bow. His Excellency Mr M'Bow has not always been present at conferences of states to adopt a convention like the one we have adopted.

But because of his affection and concern for us, for the peoples of Asia and the Pacific, he is here with us today. He has been a great inspiration indeed. He and his staff have been of great help.

Mr M'Bow has made himself the champion of underdeveloped or developing nations, which many of the countries that we represent are.

We are happy to hear as your partner in ASEAN and as your colleague in the task of bringing forth in Unesco a New Asia-Pacific that you have been able to accord him the hospitality and generosity that our respective peoples are known for.

We are almost tempted to propose that we, the delegates of the nations present here, congratulate ourselves. We do deserve the congratulations.

But we believe that you, Mr President, your government and people, Mr M'Bow, Mr Whitlam of Australia, Mr M'Bow's staff, and Mr Roy Singh and his staff deserve it more. To you and to them - our appreciation and gratitude.

And to formally express our appreciation and gratitude may I propose that this Conference adopt the resolution, which, with your permission, I will now read:

(the text of this resolution is reproduced in Annex IV).

Address by H. E. Mr Nikolaj Sophinsky
Deputy Minister of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education
Head of Delegation of Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

The Soviet delegation would also like to express its satisfaction with the ceremony that has just taken place, the signing of the Convention. The Soviet delegation is convinced that the Convention which has just been signed will contribute to the extension and strengthening of co-operation between different countries in the field of higher education. We are sure that the Convention is of wider significance. It will contribute to the strengthening and extension of co-operation in other fields and it will ultimately foster the strengthening of co-operation, friendship and peace between peoples, a goal to which the peoples of the world aspire.

The delegation of the Soviet Union thanks the Government of Thailand for its hospitality and for providing good working conditions for our Conference. We are particularly grateful to you, Mr Minister of Education. I think your government placed the main responsibility for the organization of this work on your shoulders. I thank Your Excellency for your skilful and tactful guidance of our work as President of this Conference.

The Soviet delegation would also like to thank all the members of the staff of Unesco who had a hand in preparing the Convention for signature.

The Soviet delegation is particularly grateful to the esteemed Director-General of Unesco, Mr M'Bow, for his personal participation in our Conference, which conferred particular significance on it. Our thanks go to all who helped to make our Conference a success.

Thank you.

My comment concerns paragraph 20.

This is quite a long paragraph, in the middle of which occurs the sentence 'The proposed Convention, it was suggested, would also provide useful experience to draw upon for strengthening such internal harmonizing processes'. It is possible that in the Chinese, English and French versions the meaning of this sentence is clear, but in Russian it is quite impossible to understand what these internal harmonizing processes are. What does this mean? Again, 'experience to draw upon for strengthening such ...'[1] - what is meant by 'such'? Such as what? In Russian this sentence is absolutely incomprehensible.

I would like to suggest something which might expedite our discussions, namely that only the following part of this sentence should be retained: 'The proposed Convention, it was suggested, would also provide useful experience to draw upon' - full stop. Useful experience can always be used for good purposes, that is quite clear, and there is no need for us to specify what they are. I should like to repeat once more that, with respect to the term 'internal harmonizing processes' it is not clear what is being harmonized or what these 'internal processes' are. The word 'such' is not clear either. Such as what? This is incomprehensible in Russian and I therefore suggest that this part of the sentence should be deleted.

Thank you.

I wish to propose an amendment to paragraph 31, where the reasons underlying our proposed amendment to the definition of higher education are set out in a way which is not quite correct, or quite incorrect.

We suggested that the wording contained in the draft Convention should be replaced by another wording for exactly the reason which led the delegations to reject our amendment. The other

1. Translator's note: the Russian word used for 'such' is the word meaning 'similar', which is quite normal usage.

delegations rejected our amendment for the reason which is clearly set out in paragraph 32. Paragraph 32 states that the delegations rejected the Soviet amendment because it did not correspond to the definition of higher education accepted in their countries. I should therefore be grateful if it could be placed on record in paragraph 31 that the Soviet delegation proposed its amendment because the definition given in the draft Convention did not correspond to the definition which is accepted in our country - that is just what I said - and not at all because it was too general and vague. It was simply incorrect as far as we were concerned. No, I will not say incorrect. What I really mean is that in our country we adopt a different definition. The wording used does not correspond to the definition which is accepted in our country. In other words, I suggest that the reason given in paragraph 31 should be the same as that given in paragraph 32, i. e. the reason for which the other delegations rejected our amendment. I should also like to say that in the course of the debate we did in fact make a second proposal. We did not propose simply replacing one form of words by another, we made a second proposal. If our proposal that one wording should be replaced by another was not acceptable to the other countries, then we proposed that two definitions of higher education should be included in the Convention - the two definitions which do in fact currently exist in the various countries. Since the report should reflect what really happened at our Conference, I therefore request that our second proposal should also be recorded in paragraph 31. I do not wish to take up the time of the whole Conference any further now, and am ready to transmit our draft for paragraph 31 to the Secretariat immediately.

Thank you.

I should like to make a modification to paragraph 47. In the middle of this paragraph as it stands at present there is a statement to the effect that the delegate of the Soviet Union pointed out various things. The wording here is incorrect. This was not the point I was making. At the end of paragraph 47 is a subparagraph beginning 'The Soviet delegate said ...' followed by what he said. This is not what I was saying either. I ask permission to provide a shorter but more accurate formulation of what I really did say. My statement has not been correctly recorded here. I have a draft ready. I will give it to the Secretariat so as not to take up the time of the Conference any further.

Thank you.

Address by H. E. Mr Chuan Leekpai
Minister of Education of Thailand and
President of the Conference

Dr M'Bow, Director-General of Unesco,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

After a week of hard work, our Conference is finally coming towards an end. I hope many of you are sharing with me a sense of pride and gratification. The spirit of mutual understanding and goodwill among the distinguished delegates have made our work truly agreeable. And for this, I thank you all.

May I also pay tribute to members of the Bureau, and in particular, the Vice-Chairman from Australia, the Honourable Mr Whitlam, who, by consensus of other Vice-Chairmen and at my request, accepted to chair the difficult part of the Conference in my absence for two days.

I also thank the Chairman of the Credentials Committee, His Excellency Mr Pandey from Nepal, and members of the Committee for their efficient work. The task of the Drafting Committee, chaired by our General Rapporteur, Dr Kalpage of Sri Lanka, is also much appreciated.

The valuable guidance of the Director-General, Mr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, and the outstanding services of his Secretariat, no doubt contribute to the success of the Conference. Therefore I extend words of sincere appreciation to him, and especially to Mr Raja Roy Singh and Mr Trapero.

May I add also that an international conference, such as this one, cannot be successfully organized without the keen assistance and dedication of the able technical and support staff of Unesco, both from the Unesco Headquarters in Paris, and from the Regional Office in Bangkok. The hard-working staff of the Thailand National Commission should also be commended for their efficient and untiring support, some of them unseen, as they have to work before or after the Conference began or behind the scene. Therefore I would like to express our warm thanks and appreciation to all of them.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I stress once again Thailand's gratification to co-host this Conference with Unesco, for it marks an important milestone in educational co-operation in our region through Unesco. With the Convention having been adopted and the Final Act signed Asia has joined the network of co-operation with other parts of the world regarding the recognition of studies, diplomas and degrees in higher education. Nevertheless, much more still remains to be done. It will depend largely on the member countries in our region to help promote successful application of the Convention for the benefit of the peoples of our region.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As New Year is approaching, may I request you to carry a message of goodwill of the Thai Government to your countries and peoples. We look forward to even closer co-operation with all countries in the region on the basis of mutual respect and understanding. On this note, I declare officially closed the International Conference of States with a view to Adoption of the Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific.

Thank you.

Annex/Annexe/Anexo/Приложение/ملحق/附 件/VIII.

List of Participants/Liste des participants
Lista de participantes
Список участников
قائمة المشتركين
与会者名单

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I.

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II.

Non-Member States and Territories
États non membres et territoires
Estados no miembros y territorios
Государства, не являющиеся членами, и территории
الدول غير الاعضاء والاقاليم
非会员国和领土

Holy See/Saint-Siège/Santa Sede/ Ватикан/ الكرسى البابوى 罗马教廷

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Organisations du système des Nations Unies/
Organizaciones del sistema de las Naciones Unidas/
Организации системы Организации Объединенных Наций/
منظمات تابعة لمنظومة الامم المتحدة / 联合国系统组织

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Social Development Division

United Nations Industrial Development Organization
Mr Mohammad Arif Siddiani
Senior Industrial Development Field Adviser and
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International Labour Organisation

Mr M.N. Unni Nayar
Deputy Regional Director

United Nations Development Programme

Mr Charles H. Larsimont
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United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Mr S. Bari
Legal Adviser in Asia

Mr B. Panday
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World Health Organization

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Consultant, WHO

Mrs Thynn Thynn San Lin
Medical Officer
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组织和基金会

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS/ ORGANISATIONS INTERGOUVERNEMENTALES/ МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННЫЕ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ/ منظمات دولية حكومية/ 政府间组织

Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Secretariat

Prof. Dr Adul Wichiencharoen
Director

INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (CATEGORY A)/ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES NON GOUVERNEMENTALES (CATEGORIE A)/ МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЕ НЕПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННЫЕ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ (КАТЕГОРИЯ А)/(منظمات دولية غير حكومية (الفئة ألف
非政府国际组织（A类）

International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies

Prof. M. C. Subhadradis Disku
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Rector of the Silpakorn University, Bangkok

INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (CATEGORY B)/ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES NON GOUVERNEMENTALES (CATEGORIE B)/ МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЕ НЕПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННЫЕ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ (КАТЕГОРИЯ В)/(منظمات دولية غير حكومية (الفئة باء
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